Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 //058 W

-----131200Z 028732 /22

R 131115Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4016
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, GY

SUBJECT: PM AND PPP EXCHANGE VIEWS ON NATIONAL UNITY

REF: GEORGETOWN 0054

1. SPEAKING AT CONCLUSION OF 1977 GENERAL DEBATE ON BUDGET, PM BURNHAM STATED THAT PNC WILL WELCOME PPP IF IT REALLY BELIEVES IN NATIONAL UNITY AND IS PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. HOWEVER, HE EMPHASIZED THAT ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL UNITY BY RAPPROCHEMENT OF OPPOSING PARTIES SHOULD NOT INVOLVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT POWER. PM REJECTED PPP'S CALL TO END COMPULSORY NATIONAL SERVICE (NS) FOR UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA (UG) STUDENTS. HE ARGUED THAT NS WAS IMPORTANT MEANS OF DEVELOPING SOCIALIST CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG STUDENTS SO THAT THEY COULD SERVE AS PROPER LEADERS OF THE LESS EDUCATED PROLETARIAT.

2. BURNHAM ALSO CALLED FOR HIGHER LEVELS OF EFFICIENCY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND PRODUCTIVITY AND FOR WAR ON WASTE. HE ANNOUNCED THAT AN INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE WOULD BE SET UP TO LOOK INTO RE-DEPLOYMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT GOG MAY BE TRANSFERRING GOVERNMENT WORKERS FROM GEORGETOWN TO REGIONAL CENTERS IN ORDER TO SERVE THE PEOPLE BETTER.

3. PPP CONCLUDED DEBATE BY WARNING THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST REDUCE SALARIES FOR MINISTERS AND SENIOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND SHOW GREATER FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AS PREREQUISITE FOR NATIONAL UNITY.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT BURNHAM TOOK TOUGH LINE IN REPLY TO PPP CALL FOR POWER-SHARING BECAUSE PPP'S CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND ACCUSATIONS OF GOG MISMANAGEMENT OF ECONOMY UNDOUBTEDLY ANGERED PM. FURTHER, WE BELIEVE THAT CONTINUED PPP REFUSAL TO SIT ON DEFENCE FUNDS COMMITTEE HAS SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED POSSIBILITY OF UNITED ACTION TO MEET PPP REQUIREMENTS FOR UNITY AT THIS TIME.

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Message Attributes

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